ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, for the Year 1861–62.

TO HIS EXCELLENCY GEORGE WILLIAM FREDERICK
EARL OF CARLISLE, K.G.,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AND GENERAL-GOVERNOR
OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, "the Commissioners of Education in Ireland," constituted by an Act of Parliament passed in the fifty-third year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, and in obedience thereto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a General Report of the Proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

The superintendence of the Estates vested in us, and of the course of general instruction carried on in such of the various Schools of public and private foundation as are under the control of the Commissioners (being chiefly of a character intended to fit Students for their progress through the University), and the circumstance that the duties of the Commissioners are totally unconnected with either the right or the responsibility of appointing any of the Masters or Assistants, must necessarily deprive the Annual Reports of much variety, or render them vehicles of too minute detail.

As regards the legal proceedings referred to in a former Report, and which for the interest of the Establishment and for the protection of the School Premises at Portora, immediately adjoining the town of Enniskillen, we felt ourselves coerced to undertake, we have the pleasure to report to your Excellency, that they have been brought to a conclusion satisfactory to all parties; and that we have, in consequence, made such improvements in the School Grounds as will, we trust, prevent any further disagreeable occurrences taking place.

We have also to report to your Excellency, that a termination has been put to the expensive and very protracted litigation to which we were subjected by certain parties on the Banagher School Estate.

The management of the Estates, which form the Endowments of several of the Schools under our supervision, has, during the past year, necessarily occupied much of our attention.

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On the Dungannon School Estate, which is situated in the County of Tyrone, we beg to state that, notwithstanding the large annual outlay which, in consequence of the operations of the Loogh Neagh Drainage Commissioners, we have been compelled to incur, we are again called upon to contribute towards the carrying out of this project, and a new valuation of the lands, stated to be improved by this drainage, was made by our directions, and the rents to be paid by the tenants were arranged accordingly. Much dissatisfaction on the part of some of the tenantry has, however, arisen in consequence. And we have it under consideration whether it may not be desirable, when the proper season shall arrive, to have a re-valuation made of the farms of those who now complain.

At the Royal School of Dungannon, which is in full operation, considerable additions, alterations and improvements on the School Grounds and Premises generally have been carried out since our last Report, and are certified to us by our Architect to be of a most complete and satisfactory character; and we have, in pursuance of our agreement with the Master, and as far as the means under our control enabled us to do so, repaid to the Master portions of the large sums which he had advanced for the purpose of carrying out such works as had been previously sanctioned by us.

The Armagh and Cavan Royal School Establishments have been kept by us in a sound and substantial condition.

On the Raphoe and Banagher School-houses, we have caused such expenditure to be made as was reported to us to be required, and the limited means at our disposal justified.

The Schools and School-houses established by us on certain of our Estates, for the benefit of our tenantry, have also been kept in a sound and satisfactory state.

In consequence of the recommendation of the Trustees of the Tullyvin Private Endowment, we have made such additional outlay as it is believed will make this School much more efficient than hitherto.

The Trustees of Eyrecourt School, one also of private foundation, having concurred in selecting a Master, we, with their sanction, expended the small balance in our hands to the credit of this Trust, in repairs of the School-house, which for a time had been disused; and it has been reported to us that there is now every prospect that this Endowment, small though it be, will by the exertions of the present Master become most useful in its immediate locality.

In the half-yearly Returns made to us by the Masters of the different Schools of Royal and of Private foundation, there do not appear to be any such marked changes as would call for special notice of them to your Excellency.

The course of instruction afforded at some of them varies a good deal, according to the class of School, and the amounts payable to the teachers; that at the Royal Schools, generally, being of a very extended character, the Masters, in some instances, paying from their own resources a very large sum annually to assistant teachers. And we may state to your Excellency, that the anxiety of some

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some of the Masters to render their Schools as efficient as possible is evidenced by the fact of their having advanced very considerable sums in carrying out improvements and alterations at the School-houses, on the understanding that this Board will repay them such advances from time to time, and in such amounts, as the funds in their charge enable the Commissioners to do.

The Royal Scholarships founded in Trinity College by us, and obtainable solely by a severe competitive examination in an extensive course of Ancient and of Modern Languages, of Ancient and Modern History, of English Literature, of Mathematics, and of Arithmetic, and which, though they may be retained for five consecutive years, become forfeited, unless certain high distinctions are in each year achieved by those who have been appointed to them, still hold their high position in public estimation.

And we should state to your Excellency that, although some of these Royal Scholarships amount to 50 *l.* annually, we, occasionally, where the merit is not shown to be of a very high standard, grant only a smaller sum; grounding our judgment on the very careful and elaborate reports furnished to us by the Court of Examiners appointed for that purpose.

In cases, however, where the holders of Scholarships thus reduced, or of inferior amounts, have during the year obtained numerous honours, and have shown distinguished merit, we grant certain additions and promotions at the close of each year as a reward for past and an incentive to increased exertion; and, with the object of making these Scholarships more generally useful than they hitherto have been, we have resolved that, in addition to the collegiate honours, appointments obtained at competitive examinations for the Indian Civil Service, and for admission to Woolwich, &c., &c., shall be considered as qualifications for retaining these Scholarships.

And we beg to report to your Excellency that the stimulus to continuous exertion on the part of the holders supplied by the risk of forfeiture, and also by the hope of promotion to a larger amount of annual payment, has been found to operate most beneficially.

And we beg to lay before your Excellency the following list of the names of those who at present hold Royal Scholarships, and of the amounts annually payable to each; viz.:—

	£.		£.
C. Crosslè	50	T. Norman	50
R. Rice	30	R. Turle	35
A. Gibson	25	D. Orr	10
T. W. Kinahan	25	J. Twigg	50
F. Crofton	50	J. Frizelle	50
J. Corvan	30	R. Bennett	50
J. T. Mooney	30	A. Robinson	40
T. Brett	50	H. B. Leech	50
M. Hime	50	W. Colquboun	30
W. J. Bryan	20	W. A. Leech	50
W. Riddall	30	E. G. Cooper	30
R. H. Collins	50	T. Hime	30
B. Purser	50		

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As regards the Diocesan School system, generally, and the law bearing thereon, we beg to state that we have no special observations to make to your Excellency, in addition to those so frequently brought forward in our Annual Reports.

All which we beg most respectfully to submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed)	MAZIERE BRADY, C.	(L.S.)
	PLUNKET TUAM, &c.	(L.S.)
	RICHARD MACDONNELL, Provost.	(L.S.)
	FRANCIS BLACKBURNE.	(L.S.)
	WM. GIBSON.	(L.S.)
	ROBERT SHAW, Bart.	(L.S.)

Wm. Cotter Kyle, LL.D., M.R.I.A.,
Secretary.

8, Clare-street,
13 June 1862.

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ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, for the Year 1861–62.

(Presented to Parliament by Her Majesty's Command.)

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